

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/602,516

Examiner

Matthew A. Thexton

Applicant(s)

NGUYEN, PHILIP D.

Art Unit

1714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendments filed 2005 July 5.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 28-54.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date one sheet
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Clifford C. Dougherty, III, 405-552-2302, on 2005 August 31.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 28, line 1, deleted "low density".

Claims 1-27 were canceled.

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Surles (US 4964465), cited by Applicant, discloses well sealing mixtures comprising sand or glass beads, furan resin, surfactant, and acid catalyst. There is no disclosure or suggestion to employ an organosilane coupling agent or hollow microspheres.

Todd et al. (US 6311773-B1) discloses hardenable resin mixtures comprising furan resin, organosilane coupling agent, and cationic surfactant. This mixture is combined with particulate solids suspended in a carrier fluid causing coating of the

Art Unit: 1714

particles with resin. The cationic surfactant is said to facilitate resin flow to the particulate solids. There is no disclosure or suggestion to employ hollow microspheres in said mixtures.

Nguyen et al. (10/944973, published as 2005/0051331) claims proppant coated with hardenable resin mixtures comprising furan resin, organosilane coupling agent, and cationic surfactant. There is no claim to hollow microspheres in said mixtures.

Surles (US 6177484-B1) discloses hardenable resin mixtures comprising furan resin, diluent, solid particles, and anionic surfactant as catalyst. There is no disclosure or suggestion to employ hollow microspheres as solid particles in said mixtures or to employ cationic surfactant or to employ organosilane coupling agent.

Nguyen et al. (US 6702021-B1) claims drilling fluids having dispersed therein sealant mixtures comprising hardenable furan resin, hydrolyzable ester, furfuryl alcohol, silane coupling agent, and solvent. There is no claim to hollow microspheres or any solid particles in said mixtures. Solid fillers are disclosed (column 4, lines 40-49) but hollow microspheres are not suggested.

Contact Information

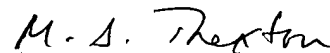
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew A. Thexton whose telephone number is 571-272-1125. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasudevan S. Jagannathan can be reached on 571-272-1119. The fax

Art Unit: 1714

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Matthew A. Thexton
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1714